



# STAR/CSF-Ft. Worth Times

Making a difference...one student at a time!



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## Vision Statement

The Board of Trustees of the STAR Sponsorship Program, Inc./CSF FW is dedicated to increasing educational options for children in Tarrant County whose parents do not have the financial means to provide an education best suited to their children's unique needs.

We believe the well-being of the entire community is enhanced when children are given a quality education that allows them to achieve to their utmost ability. Therefore, we intend wherever possible, to encourage partnerships with schools, parents, community organizations and concerned citizens in supporting its children to achieve the American Dream!

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## Profile in Action: David Porter



As founder and President of The PNL Companies, David Porter is a leader in the Fort Worth business landscape. Yet his leadership isn't limited to just this alone. Through generous philanthropy and active hands-on efforts, he has brought life-transforming opportunities to many local students.

Since 1996, Porter has been a strong source of support for underprivileged families in Tarrant County. He is a dedicated advocate of education. Prior to his move to Fort Worth, he was involved with a sponsorship organization in New York City: "Student Sponsor Partnership." Upon relocation to Fort Worth, he embraced STAR's mission of "Making a Difference, One Student at a Time" as a program donor and Board Member.

Time and again, Porter has witnessed the positive impact a strong educational foundation can have on a student's life. He said, "STAR has been around long enough that its graduates are not only graduating from the eighth grade and high school, but now graduating from college. You can begin to see that trajectory or path and it's amazing how well these kids have done."



Through his sponsorship, Porter has made an extraordinary impact on his students. In 2010, his sponsored student, Shane, described him as "his role model and mentor." Porter sponsored Shane from the time he was in fourth grade through eighth grade. Now a freshman in college, Shane characterized his experience in this way: "I felt I owed an obligation to the people who took the time and invested in me as a person and my career. The support from STAR and my sponsor were overwhelming at the time. I was so happy that people believed in me and wanted me to do well. That extra support as a youth really does wonders for self-confidence."

Porter not only made it financially possible for Shane to attend a private school. He also gave Shane the encouragement and

inspiration he needed to excel in his education. Shane said, "At times it was hard to put that extra effort into studying, but in the long run, it paid off. I know Mr. Porter could have given up on me after an occasional slip-up, but he saw I had potential and kept encouraging me. For that, I really want to thank him."

Shane's mother, Claudia, described Mr. Porter as "a wonderful person who has gone far beyond just being a sponsor. He is truly a great inspiration for Shane and a role model and someone Shane looks up to. Mr. Porter is here to encourage Shane and help him reach his goal, whatever that may be. He has been such a positive influence in Shane's life and I know it's helped him tremendously." If Shane could say one thing to Mr. Porter, he would say, "You gave me the opportunity to reach my full potential and I am very thankful for that!"

Another student was also inspired by Porter's sponsorship and encouragement. From first through eighth grade, Thalissa learned personal responsibility, accountability, integrity, and diligence. She said this about Porter: "For the last eight years you have watched me grow and prosper and have motivated me to study and maintain my grades. Your encouragement and generosity have made a great impact in my life, and I feel so blessed to have had you as my sponsor." Thalissa is now a freshman at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School.



Still another of Porter's students, Ana Linda, is in the nursing program at The University of Texas at Arlington. She is currently spending a semester abroad in attendance at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. Looking back, she is thankful for Porter's support and encouragement. It has truly impacted her life in a powerful way.

When asked what he would say to a potential donor, Porter responded: "STAR is one of the best charities you could consider. 100 percent of the money you give goes to the student in the sponsorship aspect. Administration is handled and funded separately... (Continued on back)"



STAR Sponsorship Program, Inc.



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Children's Scholarship Fund  
giving parents a choice • giving children a chance

...It's a great return on investment." In his experience of meeting with several STAR families, Porter is very impressed with their commitment to education. He said, "I've never been disappointed in a student or parent. They have really given the program more than I have." When asked what gives him the most satisfaction about being on the board, Porter answered, "The greatest satisfaction is going out to the schools and seeing the incredible work that goes on there. It's a great opportunity to see the spirit, hope, and achievement that are alive in these students and

their families." In turn, Porter's involvement continues to have a tremendous impact on the students and their future. As one STAR student recently said, Porter is "making a better tomorrow by helping children today."

Would you like to receive more newsletters similar to this one? Sign up for our eNewsletter featuring additional STAR stories at the bottom of our webpage at [www.starcsffw.org](http://www.starcsffw.org). Thank you for your support - we hope to see you there!

## From Student to Sponsor

Her parents arrived in the United States with six young children all under the age of 15. As immigrants, they had very little other than each other and their dreams of the new future ahead of them. They desired to give their children the best opportunities possible in life, so they devoted themselves to bringing that to fruition, no matter what sacrifices needed to be made.

Tram Hoang is the fourth of six children: she has one brother and four sisters. Although she was not involved with STAR Sponsorship, two of her sisters were students in the program. It gave Hoang keen insights into the incredible impact STAR had on her sisters' education and on her entire family.

When asked about the program's effects, she responded: "STAR taught us that we are responsible for the people we want to become. We learned that anything and everything is possible with God, a lot of hard work, and a little help." Hoang's parents also showed their children the importance of faith, determination, and a strong work ethic. "The STAR Program set one of the first stones to help us build that [educational] foundation," she added.

Through much sacrifice, Mr. and Mrs. Hoang gave their children a private, Catholic education all throughout elementary and high school. Their parents' dedicated efforts laid the seeds for them to persevere and succeed.

When Hoang was a junior in high school, she attended the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS). This is an accelerated program aimed at gifted students. In the program, students combine their

junior and senior years of high school with two years of early-stage college coursework. Program participants complete this rigorous, two-year academic curriculum at the University of North Texas. Hoang graduated from high school and the TAMS program in 2005. She then received her Bachelor's degree in Science and Chemistry in 2007.

Afterward she attended The Boston University School of Medicine, where she worked in cancer research at Massachusetts General Hospital for approximately two years. Hoang graduated from medical school last year and she is currently training to become an anesthesiologist in Houston. When asked what education means to her, she said: "It is invaluable. It is never too late to learn anything!"

If she could give advice to her younger self, Hoang would offer these words of wisdom: "Always seek to improve yourself. Work hard and aim high, but always be grateful and appreciate the moment in which you are given." STAR helped lighten her family's financial burden and enabled the Hoang children to capitalize on opportunities for personal and professional success.

"From there, we started building our futures. Now our family consists of three doctors, one MBA, one pharmacist, and one culinary chef," Hoang explained.

But the story doesn't end there. This year, Hoang and her fiancé, Sam, who is a petrochemical analyst, have decided to sponsor a STAR student. They chose to become

sponsors because they appreciate all the blessings they have received. Now they want to begin their lives together by giving back.

If someone desires to make a difference, STAR Sponsorship lets them touch children's lives in a powerful way. Hoang and her fiancé said: "We want to contribute to something that will last and make a difference in this world - something that can't ever be taken away and will only build on itself—education." For this dynamic couple, it's an effective way to empower local underprivileged children for the future and to help them facilitate positive change in the world.

In particular, Hoang and her fiancé enjoy seeing the students' hard work and how the students are becoming tomorrow's leaders. Hoang also touched upon how they appreciate letters from their student and how the letters give a direct insight into the impact they are making. She elaborated, "We read every single letter and report card because we really do care about our student's progress in and out of the classroom. We feel happy and honored for having such a personal view into our student's life. And of course, we are so proud of our student and his hard work!"

Hoang and her fiancé agree that STAR not only gives financial help to those most in need. By extension, the program connects underprivileged students and their families with life-changing opportunities that otherwise would most likely be unavailable. Having seen it in her own family, Hoang can personally attest to her belief that "STAR will change one life, one family, and eventually will change the world."



**"We want to contribute to something that will last and make a difference in this world - something that can't ever be taken away and will only build on itself—education!"**

Please introduce us to a friend who may be interested in providing hope and opportunity for a family who values education. Give a student a chance for a better future through a gift of education. All donations are tax-deductible.



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6707 Brentwood Stair Rd. Suite 205, Fort Worth, TX 76112 ★ 817-888-3255 ★ Fax 817-332-8825 ★ [starcsf@gmail.com](mailto:starcsf@gmail.com) ★ [www.starcsffw.org](http://www.starcsffw.org)